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CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
YEN BAI AREA, NORTH VIETNAM  
2144N 10452E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD SHOWS AN AREA OF NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY JUST NORTH OF YEN BAI, NORTH VIETNAM.

2. BACKGROUND:

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THIS AREA IN LATE AUGUST 1965 REVEALED ONLY ISOLATED AREAS OF DWELLINGS AND RICE PADDIES ALONG THE HIGHWAY PARALLEL TO THE HANOI - LAO CAI RAIL LINE, AND IN SEVERAL AREAS IN THE VALLEYS BETWEEN THE KARST HILLS NORTH OF THE RED RIVER. THREE ROAD SEGMENTS, LEADING FROM THE MAIN UNNUMBERED ROAD, APPEARED TO BE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

3. MISSION READOUT:

REVEALS AN AREA OF

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UNIDENTIFIED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY 2.3 NM NORTHWEST OF YEN BAI.

AN EXTENSIVE ROAD NETWORK WITH CONNECTING LINKS TO NUMEROUS NEW STORAGE AREAS IS OBSERVED. SOME PORTIONS OF THIS ROAD NETWORK ARE STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION; OTHER PORTIONS, WHICH ARE COMPLETED, HAVE BEEN CAMOUFLAGED WITH VEGETATION WHICH HAS BEEN PLACED ALONG THE ROADBED. AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE NEW STORAGE/SUPPORT BUILDINGS ARE WIDELY DISPERSED IN THE TREES AT THE BASE OF THE KARST HILLS. MANY OF THE BUILDINGS HAVE ASSOCIATED TRENCHES AND

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INDIVIDUAL DEFENCE POSITIONS. AT LEAST THIRTY-TWO VEHICLES OR POSSIBLE PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT ARE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

GROUND SCARRING INDICATES THAT EXTENSIVE EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE. ONE LARGE AND SEVERAL MINOR DRAINAGE CANALS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED ADJACENT TO THE AREA OF THE EARTH MOVING ACTIVITY. DEFENSIVE POSITIONS CONSIST OF SEVENTEEN LIGHT AAA SITES (TEN OF WHICH ARE NEW SINCE AUGUST), AND TWENTY-TWO HMGAA SITES (EIGHTEEN OF WHICH ARE NEW SINCE AUGUST). NUMEROUS INDIVIDUAL AND AW POSITIONS ARE OBSERVED THROUGHOUT THE AREA.

THE EXACT NATURE OF THIS CONSTRUCTION OR THE FUNCTION OF THE AREA CANNOT BE DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.

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PREPARED BY: NPIC/CSD

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